

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block (Block), Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Block (Block)

GUESTS: Senator Brackett; Senator Nuxoll; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Don Ebert, Clearwater County; Bert Marley, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Jason Hancock, State Department of Education (SDE); Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE); General Saylor, Military Division; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca

Chairman Nonini called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 656: **Chairman Nonini** stated that **H 656**, which would remove the additional 2.38% negative adjustment that had been scheduled for the salary-based apportionment funding for public school teachers, administrators and classified staff members, will not be heard in committee today.

RS 21559: **Chairman Nonini** presented **RS 21559**, which amends Section 33-1004E, Idaho Code, to remove future reductions in salary-based apportionment for school district teachers, administrators and classified support staff members. These required salary reductions were included in **S 1184** (2011) and were intended to generate General Fund savings to pay for a portion of the Students Come First education reforms. **RS 21559** would also provide that any increased funds appropriated for public schools in FY 2014 would first be used to pay for growth and the statutory cost of Pay for Performance, public school technology, the next implementation phase for 1-1 mobile computing devices in high schools, and the Dual Credit Early Completers Program, before funding increases for any other items within the public school budget. It would also require that the minimum teacher salary will increase at twice the rate of base salaries in the future, after both the base and minimum salary have reattained their FY 2009 funding level, as opposed to 1.5 times the rate as is currently provided in law.

MOTION: **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to introduce **RS 21559**.

Rep. Nielsen stated that he **supports** the motion with a reservation. If the economy does not improve, changes will be necessary.

Rep. Trail stated that he supports increasing teachers' salaries and will **support** the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21559**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 662: **Senator Brackett** presented **H 662**, which makes minor changes to Idaho Code 46-805, which establishes the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. This legislation would allow for the creation of a school to be located in Pierce, Clearwater County, Idaho. The city would benefit from the approximately fifty-four (54) full time equivalent jobs with an annual payroll of \$3.1 million. The community would benefit from enhanced use of local goods and services. At-risk Idaho students would benefit from the discipline and education provided by the Youth Challenge Program. These students have a much greater chance of becoming successful, productive adults. Senator Brackett highlighted the new fiscal note that states that some funding will come from private donations and deletes the reference to utilizing the Veterans' Fund. It also states that in the event that federal funding is not allocated, the program will not commence.

Senator Nuxoll spoke in support of **H 662**. She said, "Our greatest asset is our youth," and said that the Youth Challenge Program has a 95% success rate. She referenced the great number of single-parent families lacking any male role model and said that this program can help provide those role models for Idaho's youth. She stated that the program would also benefit the community in which it would be located.

MOTION: **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to send **H 662** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions, **Senator Brackett** said that participants in the Youth Challenge Program cannot be involved in the legal system. The program is designed to deter and prevent at-risk students from entering the juvenile correction system. Alternative schools often have a unique focus. He is not aware of any other military-style schools in Idaho. The Federal Government will not provide funding for the program unless the State of Idaho commits to its portion of the match. Currently private donations are in place for a large portion of the anticipated start-up costs. Once the program has begun, Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding will be used for costs associated with the school, as with any other alternative school in the State of Idaho.

General Saylor, Military Division, responded to questions. He stated that this school is not intended to be a recruiting program. Students are encouraged to pursue secondary education in traditional colleges and universities, technical schools, or to enter military service if that is their wish. The program exists in thirty-three (33) states and has been in the United States for the last nineteen (19) years, with no withdrawals due to lack of federal funding. Positions at the school will be filled by civilian employees. Some could be cadre staff members. The most successful programs in other states do employ cadre staff members who implement the concepts of military discipline and community service.

Chairman Nonini called for a vote on the motion to send **H 662** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Roberts** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary